

Message Text

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17/13

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 NEA-10 EUR-25 DRC-01

/179 W

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R 150335Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO AFMPC RANDOLPH AFB TEX

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6620

CDR JCRC NKP

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CSAF WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, LA

SUBJECT: STANDERWICK, ROBERT - MIA 3 FEB 71

REF: (A) AFMPC 132235Z NOV 73 (NOTAL)

(B) STATE 209287 (NOTAL)

(C) VIENTIANE 7415 (NOTAL)

1. INFORMATION REGARDING STATEMENTS MADE BY MRS. STANDERWICK, AS REPORTED IN REF A, IS AS FOLLOWS: MRS. STANDERWICK DID MEET WITH MR. STONE, THE USAID AREA COORDINATOR IN SAVANNAKHET. MR. STONE DID INDICATE THAT, AS THE RESIDENT USAID AREA COORDINATOR, HE WAS IN A POSITION TO ACT AS A RECEIVING POINT FOR MIA INFORMATION. HOWEVER, MR. STONE DID NOT MENTION, OR EVEN IMPLY, ANY LACK OF COOPERATION BETWEEN USAID AND USAF ON MIA MATTERS. HE CORRECTLY STATED THAT HE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY NAMES OF MIAS IN HIS AREA, BUT HE DID NOT IMPLY THIS WAS DUE TO ANY LACK OF COOPERATION BETWEEN US MISSION AND SERVICE AGENCIES.

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2. MIA NAMES HAVE NOT BEEN FURNISHED TO ANY USAID AREA COORDIN-

ATORS BECAUSE THE NAMES OF MIAS IN THEMSELVES MEAN NOTHING TO INDIGENOUS PERSONNEL AND THUS WOULD SERVE NO USEFUL IDENTIFICATION PURPOSE. COLONEL HENRY POINTED THIS OUT TO MRS. STANDERWICK WITHOUT ANY INTENT TO EVADE THE ISSUE. COLONEL HENRY ALSO OUTLINED TO MRS. STANDERWICK AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE DELEGATION THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH RELYING ON REFUGEES AND OTHER INDIGENOUS PERSONNEL AS A MIA INFORMATION SOURCE (SEE REF C). COLONEL HENRY STATED THAT AN EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO TAP REFUGEE SOURCE IF AND WHEN THEY MOVE BACK INTO THE LPF/NVA-CONTROLLED AREAS. THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF THIS EFFORT WILL BE TO ESTABLISH A FEEDBACK OF INFORMATION ON CRASH SITE LOCATIONS RATHER THAN TO DETERMINE FATE OF INDIVIDUAL MIAS. SINCE THE VIENTIANE AGREEMENT OF FEBRUARY 21 AND THE IMPLEMENTING PROTOCOL OF SEPTEMBER 14 DO NOT PERMIT US CRASH SITE INSPECTION AND SINCE ALL CRASH SITES ARE LOCATED IN LPF/NVA-CONTROLLED AREAS, INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM INDIGENOUS SOURCES CANNOT BE VERIFIED TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY FOR USE AS A BASIS FOR INDIVIDUAL STATUS CHANGES.

3. ALL US MISSION AGENCIES AND THE LAO INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ARE MAKING THE MAXIMUM EFFORT POSSIBLE, WITHIN THE CURRENT POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT, TO SEEK PRACTICAL WAYS FOR OBTAINING USEFUL MIA INFORMATION. THE CANADIAN AND INDIAN MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION HAVE ALSO PLEDGED THEIR HELP IF AND WHEN THEY ARE AFFORDED AN OPPORTUNITY BY THE PATHET LAO TO ACT. INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES OF THE ROYAL LAO ARMY ARE ALSO PROVIDING INFORMATION GAINED FROM RALLIER INTERROGATIONS. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL IN DRAFTING THE CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSE IS CONTAINED IN REFS B AND C, WHICH IS BEING TRANSMITTED TO "NOTAL" ADDRESSEES.
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